

across America. The future depends on the choices we make today. Shifting our priorities from Pentagon waste to unmet health needs will save lives, and assure good health for this and the next generation.

[From the New York Times, July 30, 1999]
WHY SHOULD WE PAY FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS
WE DO NOT NEED?

(By Admiral Stansfield Turner, U.S. Navy,
ret.)

Last week, the House of Representatives voted to cancel the \$64 billion F-22 fighter aircraft program because America doesn't need such an expensive weapon. The same criteria that led the House to scuttle that Cold War holdover should lead to canceling other unnecessary weapons programs.

There's more in the Pentagon's budget to cut, and invest in Sensible Priorities. Case in point: We spend over \$30 billion each year maintaining a nuclear arsenal at a level of close to 12,000 nuclear warheads. A very much smaller, 1,000-warhead force would still provide the destructive force of 40,000 Hiroshima explosions. That would surely be enough to protect America from any security threat. Such a reduction would save as much as \$17 billion annually.

The United States must maintain the world's strongest armed forces, but that does not mean we should spend money on weapons we couldn't possibly use. Besides large savings on nuclear weapons, there are other ways to cut waste or trim excesses in the Pentagon's budget without jeopardizing our national security. Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities has developed suggestions for reducing the defense budget by 15%, or \$40 billion yearly. To get a copy, call the number below or download it from our website.

Our children and grandchildren deserve to inherit a strong America, but one that is strong in education, health care, equality of opportunity and quality of life, as well as military power.

[From the New York Times, July 30, 1999]
WHY CAN'T WE AFFORD TO MODERNIZE OUR
SCHOOLS?

(By Bob Chase)

Nothing is more important for our nation's future than a high quality education for America's children. Educators know that students learn best in safe and modern schools, equipped with the latest technology.

However, according to the U.S. General Accounting Office, America's public schools need \$112 billion for repair and modernization. This is no surprise. The average school building in America is 50 years old.

Unfortunately, some in Congress are choosing to ignore this dire need. That puts our nation and our children at risk. Record student enrollment and the demands of a 21st Century workforce make investing in education a national imperative.

Other nations fund the education of their children at significantly higher levels than we do. Let's make our children's education our number one priority. Kids deserve a bigger slice of the budget "pie," and they should get it. One future depends on it.

[From the New York Times, July 28, 1999]
I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT NATIONAL
SECURITY

(By Vice Admiral Jack Shanahan, U.S. Navy
Ret.)

Not every new weapon increases our nation's military strength. Some even weaken us. The F-22 fighter jet is just such a weapon.

So congratulations to the House of Representatives for voting last week to halt the

F-22 program. The House got it right, America doesn't need this plane to maintain unquestioned air superiority.

There's a lot more waste in the Pentagon budget besides the \$64 billion F-22. The same prudence the House showed scrapping that wasteful program should also be applied to other unnecessary weapons programs. An analysis by Lawrence Korb, former assistant secretary of defense under President Reagan, shows how to trim the Pentagon budget 15%—about \$40 billion annually—while maintaining the world's strongest armed forces. To get a copy of Dr. Korb's report, call the number or go to the website listed below.

Having served 35 years in uniform through three wars, I know what makes America strong. It's not just weapons. National security is also about investing in education and healthcare that make our people strong.

[From the New York Times, July 28, 1999]
WE KNOW ABOUT HELPING CHILDREN GROW UP
HEALTHY

(By Marian Wright Edelman)

Our nation's strength is in our people, and our "national security" should be measured by how we invest in children.

Is it fair that the richest nation in the world has over 14 million children living in poverty and more than 11 million without health insurance? Is it fair that one million children eligible for Head Start cannot get in, or that only about one child in ten receives child care assistance?

By curbing military spending, we can free up money for vital, unmet needs like providing health insurance for all uninsured children. For the cost of each F-22 jet fighter, we could provide child care spaces for 50,000 more children.

Health care and early education are crucial for children. Countless studies show that healthy children are more likely to stay in school, stay out of trouble, and get on the path to productive lives. Head Start and child care programs prepare children for school and help their parents work. At the same time Congress debates spending more money for new weapons, it will have a chance to vote on whether to invest more dollars in child care. I hope they make the right choice.

LA LECHE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize La Leche League International (LLL), the World Alliance for Breastfeeding, National Breastfeeding Month, August 1999, and World Breastfeeding Week, August 1–7, 1999. The theme for World Breastfeeding Week this year is Breastfeeding: Education for Life, sponsored by LLL and WABA. World Breastfeeding Week is part of WABA's ongoing campaign to increase public awareness of the importance of breastfeeding. LLL is a founding member of WABA's global alliance of health care providers, non-governmental organizations, and mother support groups.

This week, all over the world, people will be participating in the World Walk for Breastfeeding, organized by La Leche League International, an international nonprofit organization that provides breastfeeding information

and encouragement through mother-to-mother support groups and interactions with parents, physicians, researchers, and health care providers. LLL reaches over 200,000 women monthly in 66 countries.

This year's World Walk for Breastfeeding will be the ninth annual walk, and my community of the Greater Kansas City area will be participating through twelve local La Leche groups. The Walk is a fundraiser for LLL, and a portion of the money raised will stay with the local groups to fund their outreach and support activities.

Breastfeeding has been identified by the U.S. Surgeon General as a high priority objective for the year 2000, with the goal of increasing to at least 75 percent the proportion of mothers who breastfeed their infants in the early postpartum period and to at least 50 percent those who breastfeeding until the infant is six months of age. All available knowledge indicates that human milk optimally enhances the growth, development, and well being of the infant by providing the best possible nutrition, protection against specific infection and allergies, and the promotion of maternal and infant bonding. Further, breastfeeding is economical and promotes healthier mothers, and it benefits society through lower health care costs for infants, a healthier workforce, stronger family bonds, and less waste.

August 1 makes the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Innocenti Declaration on the Protections, Promotion, and Support of Breastfeeding which was adopted in 1990 by 32 governments and 10 United Nations Agencies. This Declaration states: AS a global goal for optimal maternal and child health and nutrition, all women should be enabled to practice exclusive breastfeeding and all infants should be fed exclusively on breast milk from birth to four to six months of age. Thereafter, children should continue to breastfeed while receiving appropriate and adequate complementary foods for up to two years of age or beyond. This child feeding ideal is to be achieved by creating an appropriate environment of awareness and support so that women can benefit in this manner.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating National Breastfeeding Month and World Breastfeeding Week, and let us lend our support to this global effort to nurture our infants and provide them with the best possible nutrition in the first months of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to join with the people of India and the Indian-American community to commemorate India's Independence Day. The 52nd anniversary of India's Independence will actually occur on August 15th, while Congress is in recess, so I wanted to take this opportunity tonight, before we adjourn, to mark this important occasion before my colleagues in this House and the American people.

On August 15, 1947, the people of India finally gained their independence from Britain, following a long and determined struggle that